CLAIMS

1. A compound of formula (I)

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, wherein:

-G, is a radical selected from (IIa) y (IIb);

$$R_1$$
 R_2
 R_3
 R_4
 R_4
 R_5
 R_4
 R_4
 R_4
 R_4
 R_5
 R_4
 R_4
 R_5
 R_4
 R_5
 R_4
 R_5
 R_4
 R_5
 R_5
 R_4
 R_5
 R_5
 R_5
 R_5
 R_5
 R_5
 R_6
 R_7

wherein -R' is an electron pair or a (C1-C2)-alkyl radical; with the condition that

(i) when -R' is an electron pair, a is a N=C double bond and the fused ring



is the biradical

thus radicals (IIa) and (IIb) are respectivelly (IIa') and (IIb'), and

(ii) when -R' is a (C_1-C_3) -alkyl radical, \underline{a} is a N-C single bond and the fused ring

is the triradical

thus radicals (IIa) and (IIb) are respectively (IIa") and (IIb");

wherein -R₁ to -R₁₂ represent radicals, same or different, selected from the group consisting of H, (C_1-C_4) -alkyl, (C_1-C_4) -alkoxy, (C_1-C_4) -alkylamino, phenyl, F, Cl, Br, amino, hydroxy, and nitro;

and wherein -B- is a biradical selected from the group consisting of -CONH- , -NR $_{12}$ - , -O- ,-(CH $_2$) $_n$ NH- , -(CH $_2$) $_n$ O- , -CONH(CH $_2$) $_u$ Z- ,

- -CONH(CH₂)_uCH(CH₂OH)CH₂Z- , and -CO[NHCHR"CO]_mO- ; wherein -R₁₃ is selected from the group consisting of H, (C₁-C₄)-alkyl, (C₁-C₄)-alkoxy and (C₁-C₄)-alkylamino; -R" are side chains radicals, same or different, corresponding to natural aminoacids; \underline{n} is an integer from 1 to 3; \underline{m} is an integer from 1 to 3; \underline{u} is an integer from 1 to 3, and -Z- is a birradical of a oligonucleotide phosphate between 4 and 23 bases in length, linked to the methylene group at the 5' end or at the 3' end;
- -L- is a single covalent bond or a covalent linking biradical selected from the following ones:

-(CH₂),NR"'(CH₂),-

-(CH₂),NR"'(CH₂),NR""(CH₂),-

wherein -R"" and -R"" are radicals, same or different, selected from the group consisting of H and (C_1-C_3) -alkyl; \underline{r} is an integer from 1 to 3; \underline{s} is an integer from 1 to 3; \underline{t} is an integer from 1 to 3; and

-G₂ is a radical selected from H, a radical of formula (IIa), a radical of formula (IIb), the N-radical of 1,8-naphthalimide, the C4-radical of 2-phenylquinoline, and the C9-radical of acridine;

with the proviso that (I) or its pharmaceutically acceptable salts is not one of the following compounds:

10H-quindoline-11-carboxamide;

2-bromo-10H-quindoline-11-carboxamide;

N-10H-quindolin-11-yl-1,3-propanediamine;

10H-quindolin-11-amine monohydrochloride;

10H-quindolin-11-methanol; or

N-[2-(dimethylamino)-ethyl]-10H-quindoline-4-carboxamide.

2. The compound according to claim 1, wherein (IIa) is the radical (IIa').

$$R_1$$
 R_2
 R_3
 R_4
 R_5
 R_6
 R_7
 R_8
(IIa')

- 3. The compound according to claim 2, wherein -B- is selected from the group consisting of -CONH- and -NR $_{\rm B}$.
- 4. The compound according to claim 2, wherein -B- is -CO[NHCHR"CO]_mO- .
- 5. The compound according to claim 4, wherein $\underline{m} = 2$, the leftward -R" is a glicine side chain, and the rightward -R" is a arginine side chain.
- 6. The compound according to claim 2, wherein -B- is selected from the group consisting of -CONH(CH₂) $_{\text{u}}$ Z- and -CONH(CH₂) $_{\text{u}}$ CH(CH₂OH)CH₂Z- .
- 7. The compound according to claim 6, wherein -Z- is selected from the group consisting of -TTCCGGAA- linked to the methylene group at the 3' or at the 5' end, and -CTTCTTCTT- linked at the 3' end.
- 8. The compound according to any of the claims 2-7 wherein -L- is a single covalent bond.
- 9. The compound according to any of the claims 2-7, wherein -L- is a covalent linking biradical selected from the following ones.
- -(CH₂),NR"(CH₂),-
- -(CH₂),NR'''(CH₂),NR''''(CH₂),-
- 10. The compound according to claim 9, wherein -L- is the biradical -(CH_2), NR'''(CH_2), -R''' is methyl, and both <u>r</u> and <u>s</u> are 3.

- 11. The compound according to claim 9, wherein -L- is the covalent linking biradical $(CH_2)_rNR'''(CH_2)_sNR''''(CH_2)_t$ -, both -R''' and -R'''' are methyl; both <u>r</u> and <u>t</u> are 2, and <u>s</u> is 2 or 3.
- 12. The compound according to claim 1, wherein (IIa) is the radical (IIa").

$$R_1$$

$$R_2$$

$$R_3$$

$$R_1$$

$$R_{12}$$

$$R_{12}$$

$$R_{12}$$

- 13. The compound according to claim 12, wherein -B- is selected from the group consisiting of -CONH- and -NR $_{13}$.
- 14. The compound according to claim 12, wherein -B- is -CO[NHCHR"CO]_mO-
- 15. The compound according to claim 14, wherein $\underline{m} = 2$, the leftward -R" is a glicine side chain, and the rightward -R" is the arginine side chain.
- 16. The compound according to claim 12, wherein -B- is selected from the group consisiting of -CONH(CH₂) $_{u}$ Z- and -CONH(CH₂) $_{u}$ CH(CH₂OH)CH₂Z- .
- 17. The compound according to claim 16, wherein -Z- is selected from the group consisting of -TTCCGGAA- linked to the methylene group at the 3' or at the 5' end, and
- -CTTCTTCTT- linked at the 3' end.
- 18. The compound according to any of the claims 12-17, wherein -R' is methyl.
- 19. The compound according to claim 18, wherein -L- is a single covalent bond.
- 20. The compound according to claim 18, wherein -L- is a biradical selected from the following ones.

- -(CH2),NR"'(CH2),NR""(CH2),-
- 21. The compound according to claim 20, wherein -L- is the biradical -(CH_2), NR" (CH_2), R" is methyl, and both <u>r</u> and <u>s</u> are 3.
- 22. The compound according to claim 20, wherein -L- is the biradical $(CH_2)_rNR'''(CH_2)_sNR''''(CH_2)_t$ -, both -R''' and -R''' are methyl; both <u>r</u> and <u>t</u> are 2, and <u>s</u> is an integer from 2 to 3.
- 23. The compound according to claim 1, which is selected from the group consisting of:
 - a) N-[3-[[3-[(9-acridinecarbonyl)amino]propyl]methylamino]propyl]-10<u>H</u>-indolo[3,2-b]quinoline-11-carboxamide (Ia);
 - b) N,N'-(4-methyl-4-azaheptamethylene)-di-(10<u>H</u>-indolo[3,2-b]quinoline-11,11'-carboxamide) (lb);
 - c) N-[3-[3-[[2-(1,3-dioxo-(2,3-dihydro)-1<u>H</u>-benzo[de]isoquinolinyl]propyl]-methylamino]propyl]-10<u>H</u>-indolo[3,2-b]quinoline-11-carboxamide (lc);
 - d) N-[3-[[3-[(2-phenyl-4-quinolinecarbonyl)amino]propyl]methylamino]propyl]- 10H-indolo[3,2-b]quinoline-11-carboxamide (ld);
 - e) N,N'-(3,7-dimethyl-3,7-diazanonamethylene)-di-(10H-indolo[3,2-b]quinoline-11,11'-carboxamide) (le);
 - f) N-[(9-acridinecarbonyl)-3,7,10-triaza-3,7-dimethyldecyl]-10<u>H</u>-indolo[3,2-b]quinoline-11-carboxamide (If);
 - g) N,N'-(3,6-dimethyl-3,6-diazaoctamethylene)-di-(10<u>H</u>-indolo[3,2-b]quinoline-11-1'-carboxamide (lg);
 - h) N-[(9-acridinecarbonyl)-3,6-dimethyl-3,6-diazaoctamethylene]-10<u>H</u>-indolo[3,2-b]quinoline-11-carboxamide (lh);
 - i) N-[[1,3-dioxo-(2,3-dihydro)-1<u>H</u>-benzo[de]isoquinolyl]-3,6-dimethyl-3,6-diazaoctamethylene]-10<u>H</u>-indolo[3,2-b]quinoline-11-carboxamide (li);
 - j) N-[[1,3-dioxo-(2,3-dihydro)-1<u>H</u>-benzo[de]isoquinolyl]-3,7,10-triaza-3,7-dimethyldecyl]-10<u>H</u>-indolo[3,2-b]quinoline-11-carboxamide (lj);
 - k) N,N'-(4-methyl-4-azaheptamethylene)-di-(5-methyl-5<u>H</u>-indolo[3,2-b]quinoline-11,11'-carboxamide);
 - 10H-indolo[3,2-b]quinoline-11-carbonyl-glicine-arginine;
 - m) N,N-dimethyl-*N*-(5-methyl-5<u>H</u>-indolo[3,2-b]quinolin-11-yl)-ethane-1,2-diamine (lp);
 - n) N,N'-(4-methyl-4-azaheptamethylen)-di-(5-methyl-5<u>H</u>-indolo[3,2-b]quinoline-11,11'-amine (lg);
 - o) N-1-[(5-hydroxymethyl-6-(5'-TTCCGGAA-3'-phosphate)-hexyl]- 10H-indolo[3,2-b]quinoline-11-carboxamide (Ir);

- p) N-1-[(5-hydroxymethyl-6-(5'- CTTCCTCT -3'-phosphate)-hexyl]-10H-indolo[3,2-b]quinoline-11-carboxamide (ls);
- q) N-1-[6-(5'-phosphate-TTCCGGAA)-hexyl]-10H-indolo[3,2-b]quinoline-11-carboxamide (lt);
- r) 10*H*-Indolo[3,2-*b*]quinoline-11-carboxylic acid (2-dimethylamino-ethyl)amide (lu);
- s) 10*H*-Indolo[3,2-*b*]quinoline-11-carboxylic acid (2-dimethylamino-propyl)amide (Iv):
- t) N,N-dimethyl-N-(5-methyl-5H-indolo[3,2-b]quinolin-11-yl)-propane-1,2-diamine (lw);
- u) N-[3-[[3-[(10H-indolo[3,2-b]quinoline-4-carboxamide]propyl]methylamino]propyl]-10H-indolo[3,2-b]quinoline-11-carboxamide (lx);
- v) N,N'-(3,7-dimethyl-3,7-diazanonamethylene)-di-(5-methyl-5H-indolo[3,2-b]quinoline-11,11'-carboxamide) (ly);
- w) N,N'-(3,6-dimethyl-3,6-diazaoctamethylene)-di-(5-methyl-5H-indolo[3,2-b]quinoline-11,11'-carboxamide) (lz);
- x) (3,7-diazanonamethylene)-di-(10H-indolo[3,2-b]quinoline-11,11'-carboxamide (laa);
- y) N,N'-(3,7-dimethyl-3,7-diazanonamethylene)-di-(5-methyl-5H-indolo[3,2-b]quinoline-11,11'-amine (lab); and
- z) N,N'-(3,6-dimethyl-3,6-diazaoctamethylene)-di-(5-methyl-5H-indolo[3,2-b]quinoline-11,11'-amine (lac).
- 24. Use of the compound as defined in any of the claims 1 to 23, for the preparation of a medicament for the treatment of cancer.
- 25. A pharmaceutical composition comprising a therapeutically effective amount of the compound as defined in any of the claims 1 to 23, together with appropriate amounts of pharmaceutical excipients or carriers.